

Amendment

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. ***(Currently Amended)*** A system for managing a plurality of participants to an event comprising:

a director having an address associated therewith for delivering the event to the plurality of participants;

a plurality of participant managers installed within a network communication system and logically connected amongst themselves and to said director thereby forming a hierarchy, the director forming a root of the hierarchy, the participant managers forming branches of the hierarchy, and the participants forming leaves of the hierarchy; and

a turnstile installed at and associated with each of the plurality of participants, each turnstile logically connected to one of said plurality of participant managers in said hierarchy based on an association between the turnstile and one or more characteristics of the network communication system, wherein the turnstile is configured to perform a first authentication on a ticket for the event received by the associated participant to locally determine whether the ticket is a valid ticket, and wherein the participant manager logically connected to the turnstile is further configured to perform a second authentication to determine whether the valid ticket is authentic.

2. ***(Original)*** The system of claim 1, wherein said turnstile sends delivery statistics regarding said associated participant to said connected participant manager; and

wherein said plurality of participant managers propagates said delivery statistics upstream through said hierarchy to said director.

3. ***(Original)*** The system of claim 2, wherein said plurality of participant managers aggregates said delivery statistics from those of said plurality of participants beneath it in said hierarchy.

4. **(Currently Amended)** The system of claim 1, wherein said associated participant presents said turnstile with a the ticket ~~to~~ for the event to gain access to the event.
5. **(Cancelled).**
6. **(Currently Amended)** The system of claim 1 ~~5~~, wherein said turnstile forwards the a valid ticket to said connected participant manager for authentication.
7. **(Currently Amended)** The system of claim 6, wherein said connected participant manager communicates authorization to said turnstile upon determining said valid ticket is authentic.
8. **(Original)** The system of claim 1, wherein said director provides event information to said connected participant manager.
9. **(Currently Amended)** The system of claim 1, wherein said turnstile prevents said associated participant from receiving the event until a the valid ticket associated with the event is authenticated.
10. **(Currently Amended)** The system of claim 1, wherein said turnstile prevents said associated participant from receiving the event until a the ticket associated with the event is determined to have been provided to said associated participant.
- 11-45. **(Cancelled)**
46. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 1, wherein the characteristics include at least one of a network point of entry, a geographic location, network congestion, or network performance.
47. **(New)** The system of claim 1, wherein the ticket associated with the event includes first authentication information and second authentication information,

wherein the first authentication information is used by the turnstile to locally determine whether the ticket is a valid ticket, and the second authentication information is used by the connected participant manager to determine whether the valid ticket is authentic.

48. **(New)** The system of claim 1, wherein the ticket is determined to be a valid ticket if the ticket is determined to be associated with the event.

49. **(New)** The system of claim 1, wherein the valid ticket is determined to be authentic if the valid ticket is determined to be have provided to said associated participant who is in possession of the valid ticket.

50. **(New)** The system of claim 1, wherein the director is configured to allocate a fixed number of tickets to the event.

51. **(New)** The system of claim 1, wherein the director is configured to allocate a fixed number of tickets to content providers.

52. **(New)** The system of claim 50, wherein the director is configured to allocate the fixed number of tickets among the plurality of participant managers.